

Campbell Union Grammar School  
11 East Campbell Avenue  
City of Campbell  
County of Santa Clara  
California

HABS No. CA-2207

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDITIONAL  
FOLIOS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Western Region, National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
**CAMPBELL UNION GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Historic Name: Campbell Union Grammar School

Location: 11 East Campbell Avenue  
Campbell, California  
UTM Reference 10 593275 4127100

Present Owner: Babet Financial Co.

Present Occupant: Vacant

Present Use: Vacant  
Currently slated for partial demolition, partial rehabilitation and new construction.

Statement of  
Significance:

An extensive statement of significance is made in the Nomination Form for the National Register of Historic Places concerning this building. A few highlights from that statement:

- Four school districts combined to form the Campbell Union School District in 1920. In 1921 voters approved a bond issue and the school became the first grammar school built by the new district.
- William H. Weeks, the architect, although relatively unknown, designed more schools in Northern California during the period 1884-1936 than any other architect. He considered Campbell Grammar School to be one of his best designs.
- The school has been a focal point for the community since it was built. The auditorium was built larger than necessary for the student body in order to accommodate community meetings.

- For 24 years between 1922 and 1946 this was the only grammar school in the district.

## PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### Physical History

Date of Erection: 1922

Architect: William H. Weeks

Original Owner: Campbell Union School District

Subsequent Owners: Babet Financial Co.

Original Plans and Construction: A set of blueprints of the original drawings exist for the school. 8 sheets showing elevations, floor plans, exterior and interior details are in the possession of Babet Financial Co.. In addition, blueprints for the two additions are extant (see below). A representative sample has been reproduced for archival purposes and accompanies this report.

Alterations and Additions: Two major additions were made to the original building. The same architect, William H. ,Weeks designed both additions, one in June 1926 and the other in March 1929. These two extensions to the floor plan completed the enclosure of what was an "E" shaped building and thus was formed a courtyard structure. The additions are of the same design and material as the original building.

### Historical Context

A reading of the description of this building in the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form together with the Statement of Significance contained therein gives much of the information necessary for this section. Some highlights:

- The school was the first grammar school built by the newly consolidated Campbell Union School District in 1922 and remained the sole grammar school for the subsequent 24 years.
- It was a focal point for the community, once a rural agricultural area. This is most evidenced by the oversized auditorium used for community as well as school purposes.
- The architect, William H. Weeks, was a prolific designer of schools as well as libraries and churches. The Campbell Grammar School was designed during the mid-point of his career.
- The facility served as the first campus for the West Valley Junior College for 12 years between 1964 and 1976. This was the heyday for the establishment of junior and community colleges in California as the educational system attempted to meet the educational needs of those born during the post-war baby boom.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### General Statement

The Campbell Union Grammar School is a one-story school with a centrally located two-story auditorium. The classrooms are located in wings, the central one of which is enclosed. The others (3 in number) have open arcades onto which the classrooms open. These wings form a rectangle around a courtyard.

The main entrance faces south and is a composition of three arched openings flanked by dual attached columns ending in Ionic capitals. The arch features an embellished keystone and spandrels with small rosettes. The entablature above is divided into an architrave which once contained the name of the school (now removed), and an exaggerated frieze divided into panels matching the arched openings below and containing decorative medallions. Decorative terra cotta urns were removed in the 1970s. The whole of the entry portico rests on four horizontal steps.

Flanking the entrance are the extensions of the west and east wings. These wings are terminated by a slightly enlarged structure characterized by tall narrow windows. On the south facade three tall windows are set into separate, recessed arched bays and topped with a broken pediment; the gap is filled with an urn. Three panels with central rosettes are in line below each recess.

"Due to vandalism of the interior, the only significant feature remaining is the tile-lined (faced) fireplace in the kindergarten, with seats on either side of it. The kindergarten also included a unique feature known as the sun porch which was located off the room to the east" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form).

The roof is a combination of hipped and gable and covered with tile.

The school "is a type of Spanish Colonial Revival architecture called Mediterranean Revival, characterized by many classical elements from the Mediterranean world. The spartan, clean lines resulted because of Campbell's desire to economize and Week's genius to create a blend of styles in keeping with the popular architecture of the early 1920s" (National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form).

#### Description of Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions: 219' x 322'
2. Foundations: Reinforced concrete.
3. Walls: For the building walls--wood frame with concrete exterior finished with cement plaster. For the arcade--reinforced concrete.
4. Structural System: Wood frame and reinforced concrete.
5. Porches, Stoops, Balconies, Bulkheads: Front entrance as described above. Reinforced concrete porch.
6. Chimneys: Not significant. Two exist. One for the steam boiler and one for the fireplace in the kindergarten.

7. Openings: Typical openings consist of two groupings of three windows each. Each window is three over three with vertical muntins. Both upper and lower portions are hinged and swing out awning fashion.

A transom completes the vertical window arrangement. It consists of three lights with vertical muntins and operates as an awning.

Classroom doors are wood with twelve lights. The transom is divided into three lights with vertical muntins matching these of the windows.

Three major entrances exist in addition to the main one on the south side. The one on the north provides direct access to the courtyard and is framed as a simple unembellished arch. The remaining two on the east and west wings are identical and consist of a rectangular opening framed with decorative jambs and brackets with acanthus leaves.

8. Roof: Roof is wood framed and was originally covered with clay tile. Tile still exists on the exterior slopes although portions of the interior (that is facing the courtyard) are now roofed with asphalt shingles.

A flat, composition roof covers the auditorium.

#### Description of Interior

1. Floor Plans: Blueprints show floor plan which has been little changed over the years. With the subsequent additions in 1926 and 1929 the plan resulted in basically a rectangle with a central courtyard. The auditorium, due to its size and placement, extends into the courtyard so that rather than a rectangular space, it becomes a "U" shape. The southern wing of classrooms face an enclosed corridor while those on the north, west, and east face an open arcade.

2. Stairways: Only minor stairways exist for access to the auditorium balcony and to the basement which was solely used for mechanical equipment

3. Flooring: Floors in the interior consist of wood for the classrooms and linoleum over concrete for the corridors. The exterior arcade has a concrete floor.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Interior walls are lath and plaster. Of interest is the fireplace in the kindergarten as it was faced with Bachelder tiles, #104, 106, 107, and 108. Ceilings are lath and plaster.

5. Openings: The windows described in the previous section are used almost universally throughout the school including the auditorium. A typical classroom has two paired groupings consisting of six windows on the exterior wall. The interior wall facing the arcade has a door with a transom and two or three groupings (six or nine individual windows). These latter windows were located high at door height.

6. Mechanical and Electrical Equipment: School was heated with steam heat. Existing boiler is a patented model (May 9, 1905) by the American Radiator Company.

#### Site and Surroundings

The original site plan set the school back from its principal street, Campbell Avenue, enough so to provide an open, park-like atmosphere. A prominent feature in this space is the 60 foot Sequoia gigantea planted in 1932. the site was directly north of the old high school. Later a new high school was built to the west also by William H. Weeks and the area became known as the "schools corner." This intersection is now one of the busiest in the community. It sits at the western entrance to the historic old core of Campbell.

#### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

Current plans call for partial demolition of the structure--mainly the north, east, and west wings and retention and restoration of the entire south facade including the main entrance and the southerly extensions of the east and west wings. This will occur in late 1983.

This historical documentaiton was prepared by Hisashi B. Sugaya of Sugaya and Frej and Martin Stupich, Photographer, in June, 1983, and includes a historical report, photodocumentation and archival reproductions of blue-prints of the original drawings for the building and its two major additions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

See the National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the major  
bibliographical references for the Campbell Union Grammar School

Originals for the following reduced copies of drawings can be found in  
the Library of Congress.

APPENDIX  
FIGURES...

Addendum to  
Campbell Union Grammar School  
11 E. Campbell Avenue  
Campbell  
Santa Clara County  
California

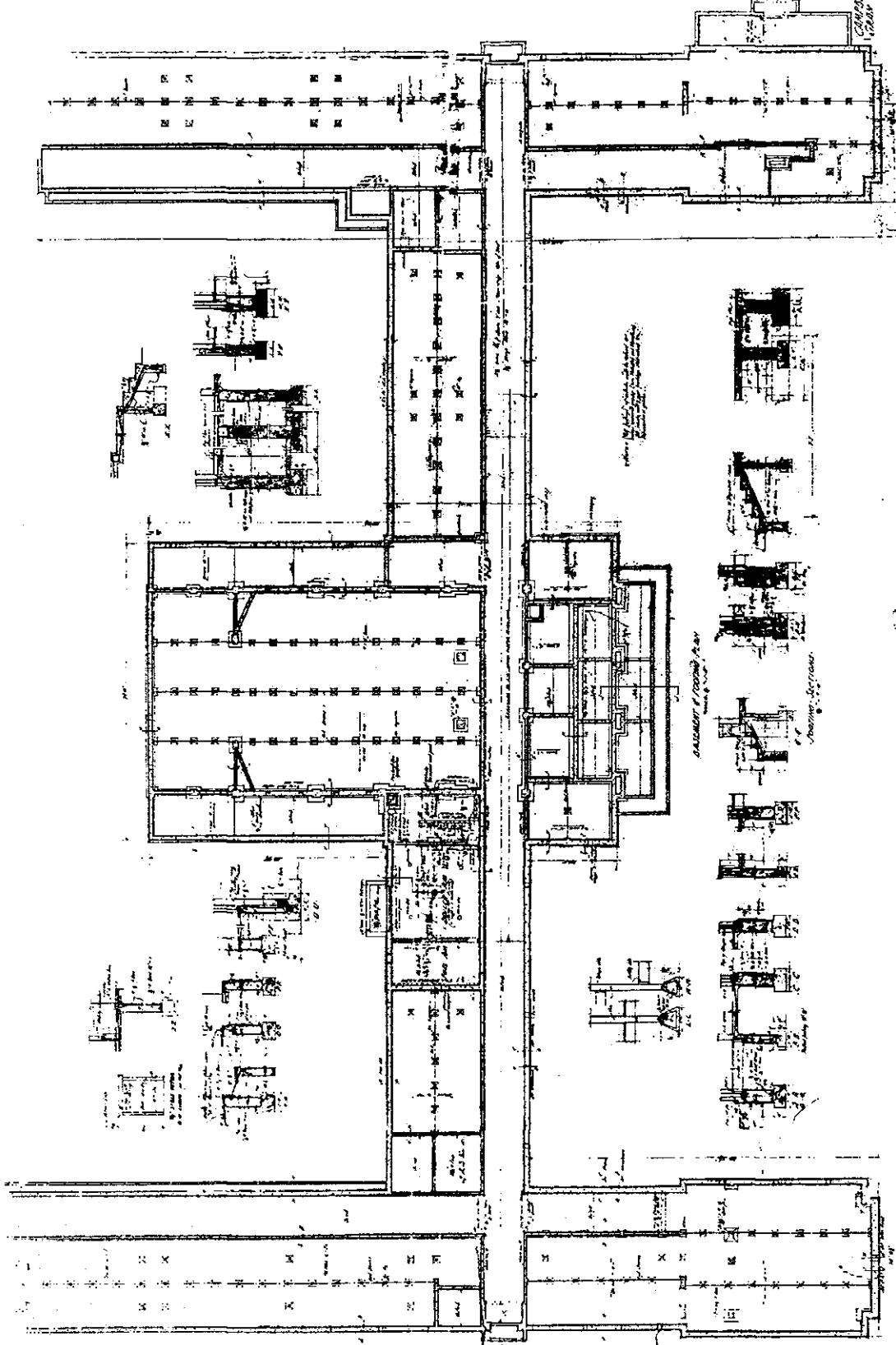
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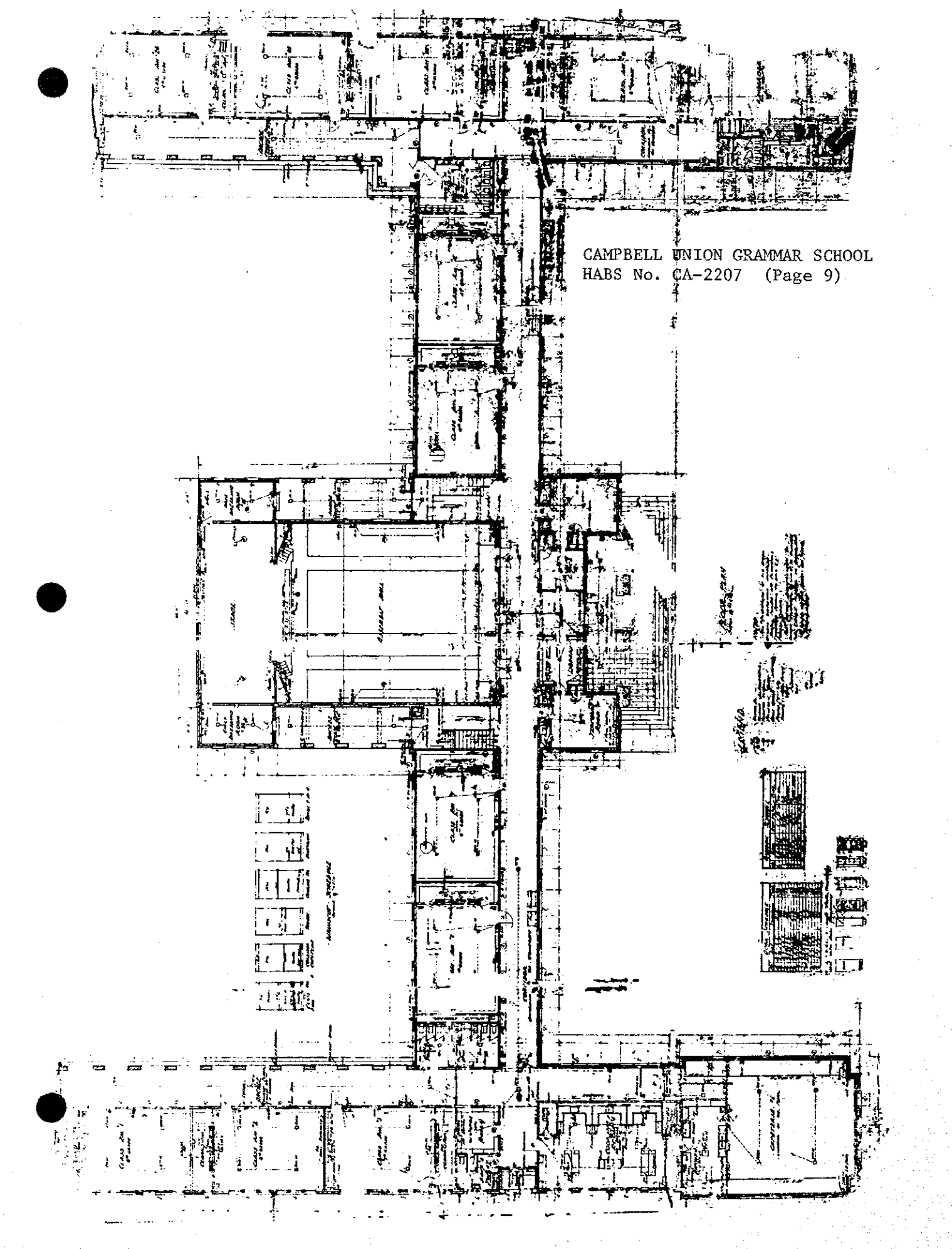
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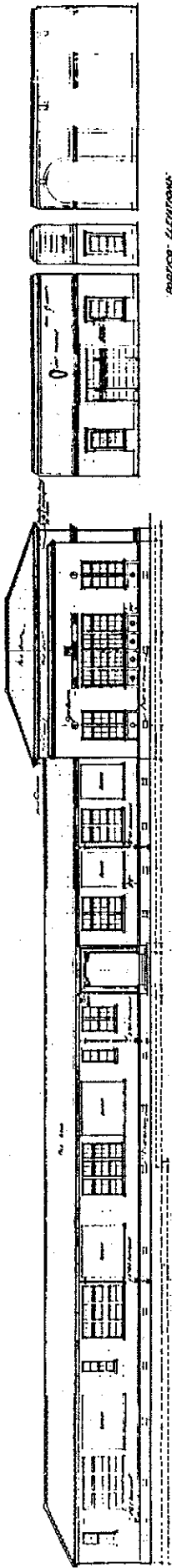
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National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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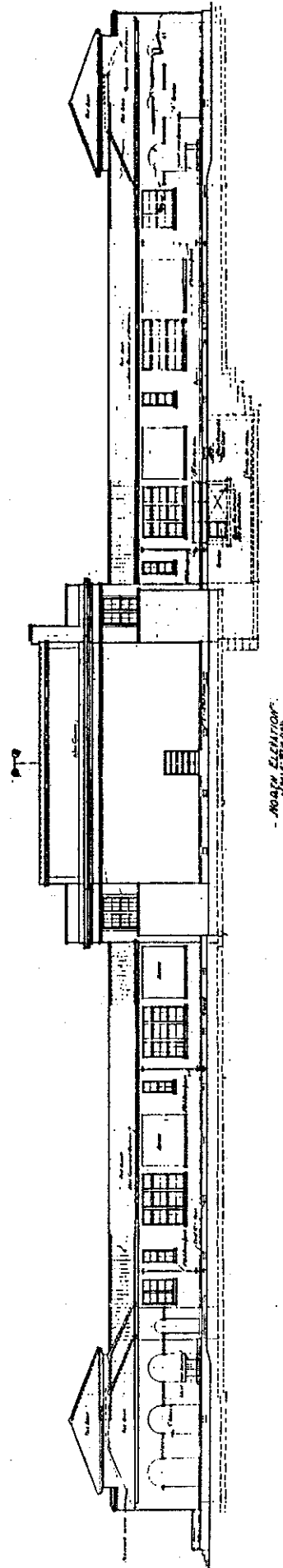


This is a detailed architectural floor plan of the Campbell Union Grammar School. The drawing shows a complex layout of rooms, corridors, and structural elements. The plan is oriented with a north arrow pointing towards the upper right. The building has a central corridor system connecting various rooms, including classrooms, a large hall, and administrative offices. The drawing is a high-contrast, black-and-white reproduction, likely from a technical drawing set.

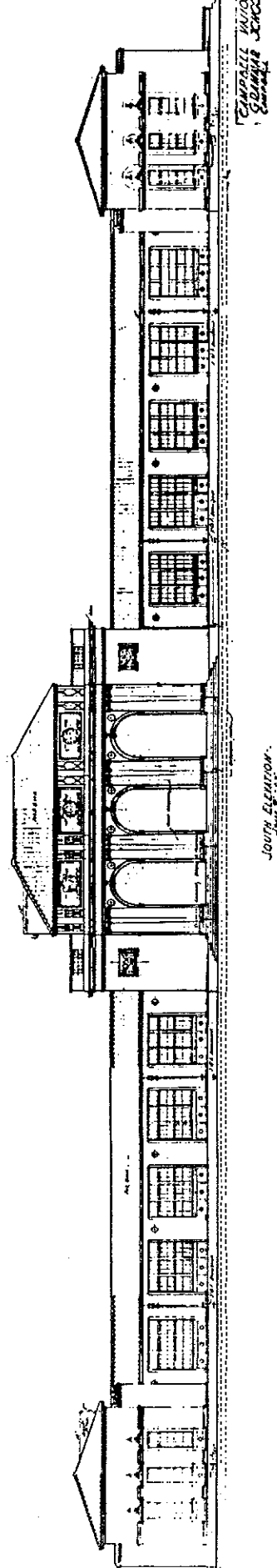
CAMPBELL UNION GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
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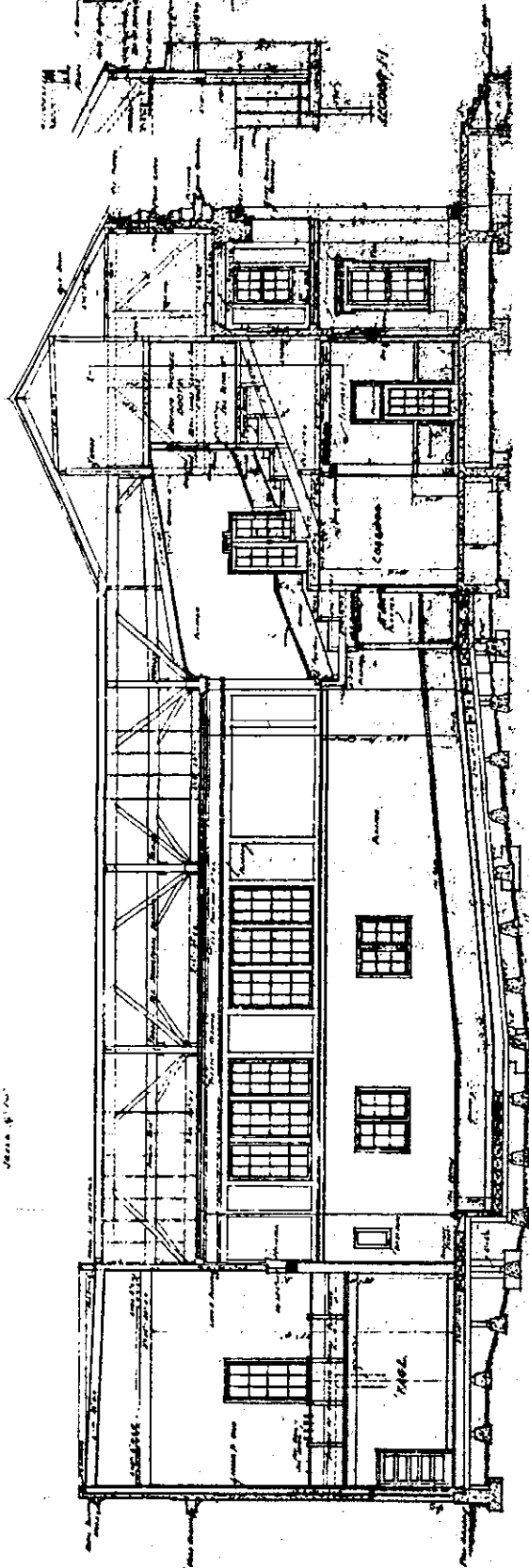
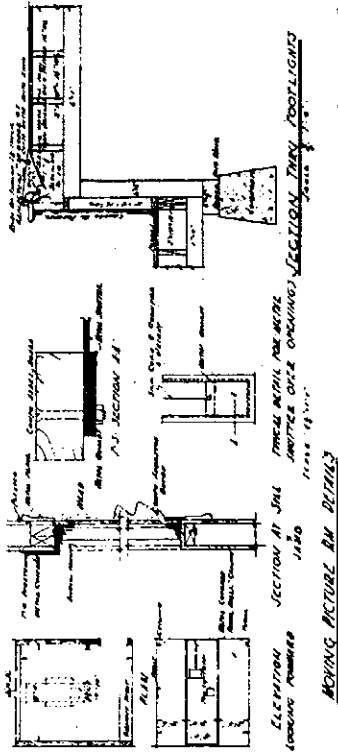
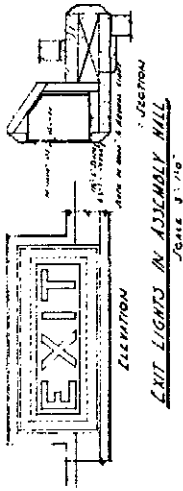
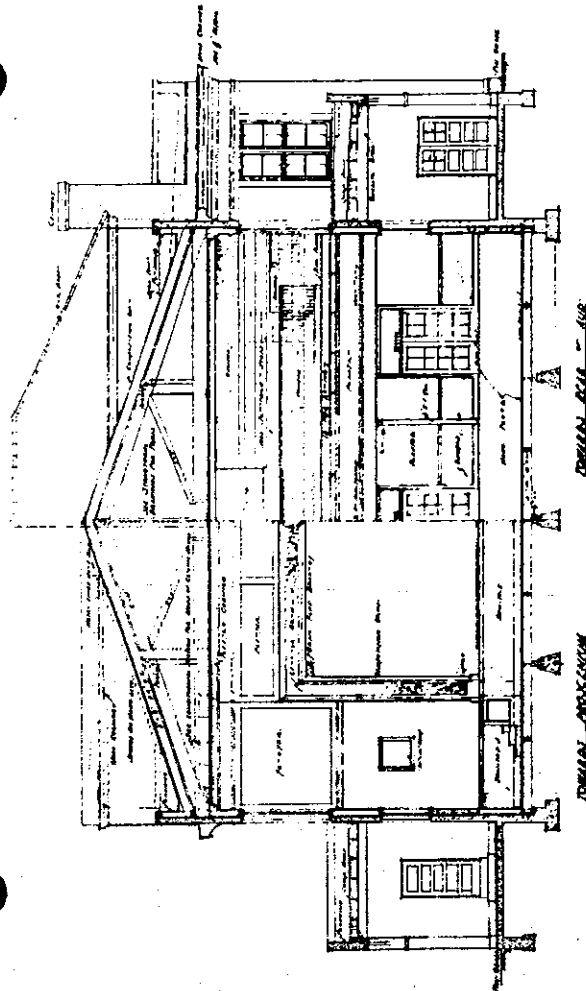
WEST ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



Longitudinal Section



